

March 13, 1984

LB 1127
LR 288, 289, 290

20 other states have gone into that. Nebraska has not. I think there should be a trade off. The trade off is we will avert state responsibility for \$5.7 million worth of disablement coverage. By the same token we will assume state responsibility for \$1.2 million. The Ribicoff amendment costs the state \$1.2 million. So we end up gaining, so to speak, \$4.5 million. What we have done is we have said, all right, we will not assume the responsibility for all the disabled and incapacitated needy adults that are around which our statute currently requires, but by the same token, we will make certain that the neediest of the needy, that is children in poor, intact families at least have Medicaid coverage. We can do that for \$1.2 million. It is a fair, it is a responsible trade off. If we were to pass this bill today, I think we would have had done a terrible disservice to the poor in this state. If we amend the bill as I am suggesting, we have not done a total disservice but, in fact, are providing an important type of coverage for people who are desperately in need of important coverages. That is all I ask.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. The Chair would interrupt debate to announce that Senator Richard Peterson has as his guests under the north balcony, 10 high school students from Norfolk High School with Mr. Dave Oman, their teacher, and in the north balcony we have 50 ninth graders from Aurora Junior High who are guests of Senator Rod Johnson and they are accompanied by their teachers, Mr. Ramsour and Mr. Farrand. If you would all stand, we would like to welcome you to the Legislature and hope you will be here some day yourself. While the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business, I propose to sign and do sign LR 290 and LR 288 and LR 289. Is there further discussion on the Johnson amendment? The Chair recognizes Senator Wesely. We are discussing an amendment offered by Senator Vard Johnson to LB 1127.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I, too, would rise in support of the Johnson amendment. What Senator Johnson is talking about is LB 1041, a bill co-sponsored by Senator Johnson and myself, sent to the Public Health Committee and there it lies, dead